
By: **Delegates Edwards and Crouse**
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2002
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Angler's Licenses**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that an application for an angler's
4 license contain the applicant's age and height; altering certain angler's license
5 fees; establishing a certain nonresident short-term license and establishing a
6 certain fee for the license; altering the compensation an agent who sells angler's
7 licenses may retain; making certain technical and administrative changes; and
8 generally relating to angler's licenses.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Natural Resources
11 Section 4-604
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article - Natural Resources**

17 4-604.

18 (a) This section provides a fund to pay the expense of protecting and managing
19 game and freshwater fish and preventing unauthorized persons from fishing or
20 attempting to fish for any game and freshwater fish without first procuring an
21 angler's license.

22 (b) (1) In this section, "resident" means a person who resides in this State on
23 the date he applies for a license.

24 (2) "Resident" includes a member of the armed forces of the United
25 States who is on active duty and stationed officially in this State.

26 (c) Any person 16 years old or older shall secure an angler's license to fish in
27 the nontidal waters of the State. An angler's license entitles the holder to fish in the
28 nontidal waters of the State only during the open season.

1 (d) An angler's license is not required of the following:

2 (1) The owner or tenant of land bordering on nontidal water, his spouse
3 and children, or the spouse of any child who resides on the land with the owner or
4 tenant when he fishes in nontidal water adjoining his land;

5 (2) Any convalescent patient of a veterans' hospital hospitalized for a
6 service connected disability who fishes in nontidal waters if the patient secures a
7 permit issued by a special service officer of the American Red Cross under authority
8 granted by the Department;

9 (3) Any group of disabled or convalescent patients organized and under
10 the care and supervision of the American Red Cross, which upon the request of the
11 American Red Cross, is authorized by the Department to fish for any recreational
12 purpose in the nontidal waters;

13 (4) Any resident serving in the armed forces of the United States, while
14 on leave in the State, during his leave period, if, while angling, he possesses a copy of
15 his official leave orders;

16 (5) Any patient who is under treatment by a State-approved mental
17 health facility, and any individual who attends or resides in a State-approved
18 retardation facility;

19 (6) A caregiver, family member, or designee of a mental health care
20 facility or private group home of a patient who is under treatment by a
21 State-approved mental health facility, provided that:

22 (i) The administrator of the mental health care facility, or treating
23 physician or psychologist provides the Department with a letter stating that the
24 caregiver or family member is the primary caretaker of the patient; or

25 (ii) The individual accompanying the patient carries a copy of the
26 letter described under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, or a professional license or
27 certificate of a health care professional involved in the care of the patient;

28 (7) A person who fishes in nontidal waters of the State on free fishing
29 days designated by the Secretary; or

30 (8) A person holding a current resident consolidated senior sport fishing
31 license issued under § 4-216 of this title.

32 (e) A person may apply for an angler's license to any person designated by the
33 Department. The application shall be on a form the Department prepares and
34 supplies. The applicant shall fill out, sign and submit the application to the person
35 designated to issue an angler's license. A person may apply by mail.

36 (f) (1) The application shall contain the applicant's name[, age, height,]
37 and place of residence.

1 (2) A person may not use an assumed name or an address other than the
2 person's legal place of residence or make any false statement to obtain an angler's
3 license.

4 (3) Before an angler's license may be issued, the applicant for the license
5 shall sign a statement which says:

6 "I understand that this license does not of itself permit me to fish on private
7 property, and if I do so without permission of the owner I may be subject to a fine."

8 (g) (1) The following annual license fees shall apply:

9 (i) Resident..... [\$10] \$10.50

10 (ii) Subject to paragraph (2)(ii) of this subsection, short-term
11 license valid for 5 consecutive days from date of issuance..... [\$7] \$7.50

12 (iii) Resident and nonresident blind persons.....No fee

13 (iv) Complimentary license.....No fee

14 (2) For a nonresident:

15 (i) The fee for an annual angler's license is the greater of:

16 1. [\$20] \$20.50; or

17 2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the
18 nonresident's home state for a similar license; and

19 (ii) The fee for a short-term license valid for 5 consecutive days
20 from the date of issuance is the greater of:

21 1. [\$7] \$7.50; or

22 2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the
23 nonresident's home state for a license that permits an equal number of days of fishing
24 or the next higher number of days as permitted by the Maryland license.

25 (III) THE FEE FOR A SHORT-TERM LICENSE VALID FOR 3
26 CONSECUTIVE DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE IS THE GREATER OF:

27 1. \$5; OR

28 2. A FEE EQUAL TO THE FEE CHARGED A MARYLAND
29 RESIDENT BY THE NONRESIDENT'S HOME STATE FOR A LICENSE THAT PERMITS AN
30 EQUAL NUMBER OF DAYS OF FISHING OR THE NEXT HIGHER NUMBER OF DAYS AS
31 PERMITTED BY THE MARYLAND LICENSE.

32 (3) (i) All fees collected by the Department under this section may
33 only be used in accordance with § 4-208 of this title.

1 (ii) The Department shall publicly report annually the amounts
2 collected and the expenditures under this section.

3 (h) A person designated to sell an angler's license shall issue the license and
4 collect the fee prescribed in subsection (g) of this section. The Department shall
5 furnish the licenses to the designated persons. An angler's license shall bear the
6 Secretary's facsimile signature and the counter-signature of the issuing person. The
7 person who issues the license shall [fill out] ENTER the name and address of the
8 licensee [on a stub attached to the license blank and detach the stub]. The [stubs
9 and] COLLECTED money[, collected every month,] shall be [mailed] TRANSMITTED
10 to the Department [on the first day of the succeeding month] AS PRESCRIBED BY THE
11 DEPARTMENT. As compensation, the agent shall retain [50 cents] \$1 for each license
12 issued.

13 (i) Every angler's license shall expire on December 31 of each year following
14 the date of issuance.

15 (j) The licensee shall sign his name in ink on the license at the time of
16 purchase. The license may not be transferred to another person, nor used or
17 presented by any person other than the person to whom it was issued.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 June 1, 2002.